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3 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

1. I agree that the future of the Ad Hoc Committee is dim and that, from an administrative viewpoint, it could well be abolished. What bothers me is that the Director of Central Intelligence has statutory responsibility for the protection of intelligence sources and methods and if he just simply allows this tired, old problem to die without continuing his efforts in one form or another, he would be subject to criticism. Accordingly, I have trouble in agreeing with Houston's paper.

2. I recall authorizing dispatch to Senator Russell (and I think one other Senator or Representative) a copy of the CIA submission to the USIB Ad Hoc Committee as a matter for their information. While this would relieve the Director in part, I somehow have a feeling it is incumbent upon him to place the responsibility on the Congress where it must inevitably rest in any event.

3. Accordingly, I suggest you discuss this matter with the Director and get his views as to other possible courses of action before letting him dissolve a USIB committee or otherwise shoving the problem under the rug.

/s/ MSC

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

MSC:blp

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60-53741

31 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: USIB Ad Hoc Committee to Study Legislation
for the Protection of Classified Information

1. This memorandum contains recommendations in paragraph 4 for approval by the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The USIB Ad Hoc Committee to Study Legislation for the Protection of Classified Information has struggled long and hard to develop means to strengthen criminal legislation pertaining to unauthorized disclosure of intelligence information. The legal problems faced under our constitutional system were formidable, and in all probability no clear-cut resolution is possible in the Committee.

3. There are basically different approaches, both in the approach to the problem and on the substantive nature of the legislation. The Committee did agree that any one of several draft statutes would result in at least some improvement over the protection provided by present legislation, but each would have its own problems, both legal and legislative.

4. Since the Committee cannot present USIB with an agreed proposal, it is my opinion that this division would be reflected in USIB itself. In view of this and of my opinion that the chances of any proposal of this nature being acted on through the legislative process in the near future are poor, I believe it would be inadvisable to make any official move for such legislation at this time. I, therefore, recommend that the Director propose to USIB that the Ad Hoc Committee be discharged and that it be left to the Director to determine if and when this matter should be resurrected and under what auspices. Much hard work has been done and many contributions made by the members of the Committee, which would be of great value if this matter is resurrected in the future. Therefore,

I believe it would be appropriate if USIB were to express its thanks to the members of the Committee for their contribution.



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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee

The recommendations in paragraph 4 are approved

JOHN A. McCONE
Director

Date

OGG:LRH:jeb
Orig:OGG
1-DCI
1-ER
1-Office of Security

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Carter

Larry Houston, as Chairman of the ad hoc committee to study legislation to protect classified information, proposes that the committee be disbanded. As you know, the ad hoc committee and USIB itself have been split on this matter and he believes it would be inadvisable to make any move for such legislation at this time. I have gone over this with [redacted] who concurs.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

If you approve my recommendation to discharge the Ad Hoc Committee, I would appreciate an opportunity to notify the members of the Committee before formal action in USIB is taken. Even if discharged, my office will continue to do research in this field and to sound out congressional reaction in regard to such legislation.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON

General Counsel

31 July 1964

(DATE)